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RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY

RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY

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RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY

INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 1982

RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 4328

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RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 2541

RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 5770

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7339

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2689

RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3367

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3387

RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 000137

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,  
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;  
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;  
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;  
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - EXECUTIVE ORDER TO  
CLOSE GUANTANAMO

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Asahi gave front-page play to  
Secretary of State Clinton's first day on the job at  
the State Department on Thursday.

¶2. "President Obama Orders Closing of Guantanamo" The  
liberal Mainichi wrote from Washington (1/23):  
"President Obama ordered on Thursday the closing of the  
detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base  
within a year. The President will seek to carry out his  
campaign pledge and regain international confidence in  
the U.S. by promptly closing the camp, which is deemed  
a 'negative legacy' of the previous administration."

¶3. "President Obama Begins to Restore 'Ethical Dignity'  
of U.S." The moderate Yomiuri's Washington  
correspondent wrote (1/23): "The Presidential order on  
Thursday demonstrated the Obama administration's move  
to restore the 'ethical dignity' of the U.S. However,  
many difficult issues lie ahead in connection with the  
closure of Guantanamo, such as the search for nations  
to accept the detainees."

¶4. "President Signs Order to Close Guantanamo" A  
Washington correspondent of the business-oriented  
Nikkei reported (1/23): "The President signed an  
executive order to close Guantanamo within one year. He  
showed his efforts to the nation and the world to carry  
out his campaign pledge and make a policy change from  
the Bush administration. However, there are major  
challenges ahead, such as securing alternate facilities  
to detain terror suspects."

¶5. "Clear Departure from Bush Diplomacy" A  
correspondent reported from Washington in the liberal

Tokyo Shimbun wrote (1/23): "... The President demonstrated his position of departing from the Bush diplomacy by developing his own diplomatic and security policies. Supporters of the 'change' advocated by President Obama will be disappointed, however, if the President fails to carry out his campaign pledge to pull out American troops from Iraq within 16 months. The executive order set a one-year deadline for the closure. There is no clear prospect for the transfer of the 250 detainees at the camp. Despite his 'hasty' decision, the closure will not be easy, as many nations are hesitant to accept the detainees out of concern for public security and the related financial burden."

ZUMWALT